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**Title:**

Speech Opening Renovations to Elephant and Castle Hotel

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1915 22

SPEECH BY THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN, OPENING RENOVATIONS TO  
ELEPHANT AND CASTLE HOTEL. ADELAIDE. 27.6.72

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MR. PARSONS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

PERHAPS IT'S ANOTHER FACET OF THE FACT THAT WE'RE THE DRIEST STATE IN THE DRIEST CONTINENT, BUT JUST ABOUT THE FIRST INDUSTRY ESTABLISHED BY SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S EARLY SETTLERS WAS THE HOTEL INDUSTRY. AND CERTAINLY NONE WAS MORE ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECEIVED OR MORE CHEERFULLY PATRONISED.

APART FROM THE INCIDENTAL ACTIVITY OF QUENCHING A THIRST, ADELAIDE CITIZENS DESCENDED ON THEIR PUBS TO HOLD MEETINGS, CONDUCT INQUESTS - THEY WERE IN FACT HELD HERE - ORGANISE POLITICAL PARTIES, TRADE HORSES AND EVEN - AT ONE POINT - HOLD CHURCH SERVICES.

NOT, MIND YOU, THAT THEY ENTIRELY NEGLECTED THE DRINKING.

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ONE PUB IN THE CITY USED TO HAVE A REGULAR WHO CAME IN EVERY MORNING AT SEVEN O'CLOCK TO KNOCK BACK TWO PINTS OF MUSCAT.

AND IF YOU WANT PROOF OF THE PROPOSITION THAT THINGS DON'T ALWAYS CHANGE FOR THE BETTER, YOU'VE ONLY TO CONSIDER THE PUB THAT USED TO ORGANISE AN ANNUAL HORSE RACE WHERE THE FIRST PRIZE WAS ONE SOVEREIGN AND THE SECOND WAS A BRIMFUL GALLON OF SCOTCH.

THE ELEPHANT AND CASTLE IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THAT TRADITION. IT'S BELIEVED TO BE THE THIRD OLDEST IN ADELAIDE AND CERTAINLY IT HAS ONE OF THE MOST COLOURFUL NAMES - PRESUMABLY DERIVED FROM THE LONDON ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, ITSELF A CORRUPTION OF THE INFANTA DE CASTILLE WHICH IN A VERY ROUNDABOUT WAY GIVES WEST TERRACE AN ASSOCIATION WITH SUNNY SPAIN.

I MUST SAY I'M A LOT MORE IN FAVOUR OF A NAME LIKE THE ELEPHANT THAN THAT OF ONE PUB WHICH USED TO BE KNOWN AS "THE LABOUR IN VAIN"!

THE ELEPHANT HAS, INDEED, HAD A CHEQUERED HISTORY. APART FROM BEING THE SITE OF EARLY INQUESTS - FOR WHICH JURORS RECEIVED FIFTY CENTS A DAY - IT WAS A STOPPING PLACE FOR HORSES DRAWING COACHES TO VICTOR HARBOR AND THE VARIOUS RENOVATIONS OVER THE YEARS HAVE LEFT IT WITH WALLS THAT ARE THREE FEET THICK.

THE LATEST RENOVATIONS BRING THE ELEPHANT RIGHT UP TO DATE AND MAKE IT ONE OF THE MOST ATTRACTIVE WATERING HOLES IN THIS CITY.

THE CHANGES THE GOVERNMENT RECENTLY BROUGHT IN TO THE LICENSING ACT HAVE GIVEN US WHAT I THINK ARE THE MOST

CIVILISED DRINKING LAWS IN AUSTRALIA AND I'M DELIGHTED THAT IMPROVEMENTS SUCH AS THOSE MADE HERE WILL ENABLE PEOPLE TO ENJOY THEM IN COMFORT. MR. PARSONS HAS SPENT ABOUT ONE-HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS ON THIS VENTURE AS WELL AS A LOT OF TIME, CARE AND ENERGY. I'M SURE ALL OF YOU WILL AGREE WITH ME THAT THE RESULTS WE SEE TODAY SHOW THAT IT'S ALL BEEN VERY WORTHWHILE.

MR. PARSONS TELLS ME THAT HE'S NOT STOPPING HERE BUT IS NOW WORKING ON PLANS TO ADD A FURTHER LARGE MULTI-PURPOSE HALL TO THE HOTEL. IT'S FURTHER PROOF OF THE ENTERPRISE WHICH HAS GONE INTO MAKING THE ELEPHANT SECOND TO NONE IN ITS FIELD AND IT NOW GIVES ME VERY MUCH PLEASURE FORMALLY TO DECLARE THE "NEW" ELEPHANT AND CASTLE OPEN.

THANKYOU.